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INTERIM REPORT TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE
COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS ESTABLISHED BY THE
SECURITY COUNCIL AT ITS 1506TH MEETING

1. In a letter dated 18 August 1969 and addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/9397), the representative of the United States requested a meeting of the Council to consider his delegation's proposal that the Secretary-General be requested by the Security Council to inscribe an item entitled "Creation of a Category of Associate Membership" on the provisional agenda of the twenty-fourth General Assembly, and suggested the establishment of a committee to study the question at greater length. The United States request was discussed by the Council at its 1505th and 1506th meetings held on 27 and 29 August 1969 respectively. At its 1506th meeting the Council decided to establish a Committee of Experts, consisting of all its members, with the records of its 1505th and 1506th meetings forming the terms of reference of that Committee.
2. The Committee of Experts has held eight meetings between 12 September 1969 and 10 June 1970.
3. The first meeting of the Committee was devoted to organization of its work. With regard to the chairmanship, the Committee decided to follow the practice of the Security Council and to have monthly rotation of its chairman, according to the English alphabetical order. The Committee also decided that it would try to reach agreed decisions and submit an agreed report to the Security Council. If that were to prove impossible, the Committee would reflect in its report the different positions taken. Finally, the Committee decided to hold closed meetings and to restrict circulation of its documents to its members only.
4. At the second meeting of the Committee, the representatives of the United States and the United Kingdom submitted certain suggestions with regard to the

question of the relationship of small States with the United Nations. The United States elucidated its proposal concerning the creation of a category of "associate membership" or "associate status".^{1/}

5. Further views were expressed at the meetings which followed, in particular, a suggestion made by the representative of France to reactivate the Security Council's Committee on the Admission of New Members established under rule 59 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council. At the sixth meeting of the Committee on 25 May 1970, the representative of the United Kingdom submitted a working paper^{2/} setting out as a detailed proposal his delegation's earlier suggestions with regard to a special arrangement which his delegation considered might meet the needs of small States.

6. The Committee held a preliminary exchange of views about the legal nature, the applicability and the implications of the proposals which were put forward. No conclusions were reached or recommendations made by the Committee concerning these proposals at this stage of its work.

7. A number of its members have not yet made their statements on the substantive aspect of the question. The Committee is therefore not in a position to formulate specific recommendations and to submit them to the Security Council. It, however, thought that it would be appropriate at this stage to inform the Council about the state of its work. In submitting the present interim report it wishes to state that it will continue its work in accordance with its terms of reference and that it will submit a further report at a later stage.

^{1/} Annex I.

^{2/} Annex II.

ANNEX I

PROPOSAL MADE BY THE UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE
IN THE COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL,
AMBASSADOR CHRISTOPHER H. PHILLIPS, ON FRIDAY,
26 SEPTEMBER 1969

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP IN THE UNITED NATIONS

The United States welcomes the emergence of new States as a result of the historic process of decolonization. The success achieved by this process has resulted in the emergence of some exceptionally small new States. In the introduction to his 1965 annual report on the work of the Organization, the Secretary-General suggested that the time had come when Member States might "wish to examine more closely the criteria for the admission of new members in light of the long-term implications for the United Nations" due to the emergence of these exceptionally small new States. The Secretary-General elaborated on this suggestion in the introduction to his 1967 and 1968 reports.

We note that under Article 4 (1) of the United Nations Charter, peace-loving States that accept the obligations of the Charter and, in the judgement of the Organization, are "able and willing" to carry them out are eligible for membership in the United Nations. We are concerned about the ability of some of these exceptionally small new States to carry out such obligations. We believe membership for them would entail a disproportionately heavy burden. At the same time, we believe that association with the United Nations of States not able to assume all the burdens of full membership is desirable from the standpoint both of their own political, economic and social development, and of the contribution they could make to the attainment of the broad objectives of the United Nations.

Accordingly, the United States proposes that there be established the status of United Nations Associate Member, each recipient of which shall:

(a) enjoy the rights of a Member in the General Assembly except to vote or hold office;

(b) enjoy appropriate rights in the Security Council upon the taking of requisite action by the Council;

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(c) enjoy appropriate rights in the Economic and Social Council and in its appropriate regional commission and other sub-bodies, upon the taking of requisite action by the Council;

(d) enjoy access to United Nations assistance in the economic and social fields;

(e) bear the obligations of a Member except the obligation to pay financial assessments.

The admission to Associate Membership in the United Nations will be effected in accordance with the same procedures provided by the Charter for the admission of Members. States which opt for Associate Membership would submit to the Secretary-General a declaration of willingness to abide by the principles of the United Nations, as set forth in the Charter.

ANNEX II

WORKING PAPER SUBMITTED BY THE UNITED KINGDOM DELEGATION

The purpose of any arrangement should be to meet the needs of very small States which wish to be Members of the United Nations but which would find difficulty in meeting all the financial and administrative obligations involved.

The aims are first to respect the sovereignty and independence of the States concerned and also to enable them to enjoy the general benefits of membership of the Organization.

Accordingly we suggest for further examination an arrangement whereby a State could voluntarily renounce certain rights (in particular voting and election in certain United Nations bodies) but otherwise enjoy all the rights and privileges of membership. This arrangement (which would not require amendment of the Charter) might be embodied in a declaration to be made by a new State at the time of its application on the following lines:

"The State of hereby applies for membership of the United Nations in accordance with Article 4 of the Charter.

In submitting this application, the State of expresses its desire to enjoy the privileges and assume the obligations of membership of the United Nations and to be accorded the protection and assistance which the United Nations can provide, in particular with regard to the maintenance of its territorial integrity and political independence; and declares that it does not wish to participate in voting in any organ of the United Nations, nor to be a candidate for election to any of the three Councils established by the Charter or to any subordinate organ of the General Assembly.

On this basis and on the understanding that the assessment of its financial contribution would be at a nominal level, the State of declares that it accepts the obligations contained in the Charter of the United Nations and solemnly undertakes to fulfil them."

We believe this suggestion to be fully compatible with the relevant Articles of the United Nations Charter. If, as a voluntary exercise of its sovereignty, as part of its request for membership, a State renounces the exercise of certain rights of membership in a manner acceptable to the Organization and

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its other Members, this would not be contrary to the provision of Article 2 (1), which is concerned to safeguard the sovereign equality of all the Members. The position would only reflect the free and sovereign choice of that State and the recognition and acceptance by the Organization of the choice made.
